

PDA's 2003: What's New Since 2002!



Sony Clie PEG-UX50

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Objectives

- Identify recent updates and improvements in PDA hardware and software components
- Identify new and upcoming health sciences applications available for PDAs
- Discuss trends in mobile computing

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Overview

- Hardware update: specifications for today's PDAs
- Software update: operating systems, basic applications, general functionality applications
- Health care application update: types of resources, examples
- Upcoming trends

Hardware Update

- Processors: 66-400 MHz
- Memory: 16 MB+++
 - Extra add-on memory cheaply available
- Color screens, good to excellent resolution
- Rechargeable batteries
- USB connection to PC for syncing

Software Update

- Palm OS (version 5.0) and Pocket PC (2003) remain dominant
- Palm continues to lose market share to Pocket PC, but is still the operating system of choice for most users
- Many health care applications remain available only for the Palm

Hardware information:

ZDNet: www.zdnet.com
PCWorld: www.pcworld.com
PDA Buyers Guide:
www.pdabuyersguide.com

Operating system info:

Palm OS: www.palmos.com
Pocket PC:
www.microsoft.com

Software

- The basics remain the same: calendar, address book, to-do list, memo pad



Software Update

- Multimedia applications
 - MP3 recorders/players
 - Video/image viewers, integrated cameras
- More advanced office applications including word processing, spreadsheets, databases, PDF viewer
- Prepare to pay for the best software

Connectivity Update

- Number one desire of PDA users: real-time access to Internet/email
- Wireless cards available as added feature or integrated into latest and greatest models
- Require some kind of wireless network, either supplied by institution or through paid access

Arizona Health Sciences Library has a terrific PDA site:
<http://educ.ahsl.arizona.edu/pda/index.htm>

PDA Price Points

Low-End Less than \$200	Mid-Range \$200-\$400	High-End \$400+
Generally Palm	Palm or Pkt PC	Palm or Pkt PC
Basic applications	Office applications	Multimedia applications
Minimal connectivity	Wireless available as added feature	Integrated wireless
Palm Zire Sony PEG-SJ22	Dell Axim Toshiba e350	HP iPaq h5550 Sony PEG-UX50

Palm: www.palm.com
Sony: www.sonystyle.com
Dell: www.dell.com
Toshiba: www.toshiba.com
HP: www.hp.com

Health Care Apps. Update

- ePocrates
 - The first, and still the best
 - Free or fee versions for Palm, fee version for Pocket PC, fee version for the desktop
 - Recently added pill pictures, patient info (desktop version)
 - Excellent example of pushing information to the user at the point of need

ePocrates:
www.epocrates.com

Health Care Apps. Update

- PubMed on Tap
 - In development phase, available for testing
 - For users with a wireless connection
 - Currently only available for Palm OS
- PubMed for PDAs
 - Specially formatted version of PubMed, ClinicalTrials.gov for handhelds
 - For users with a wireless connection

PubMed on Tap:
<http://archive.nlm.nih.gov/proj/pmot/pmot.php>

PubMed for PDAs:
<http://certif.nlm.nih.gov:8080/nlm/>

Health Care Apps. Update

- Patient information management systems adding PDA components
- "Push" technology to reach users
 - CDC ran a test with ePocrates to determine if it was a viable method for sharing bioterrorism information
- Much, much more in development

CDC project:
<http://www.ahrq.gov/news/press/pr2003/pdapr.htm>

Trends in Mobile Computing

- Tablet PCs
 - "PDAs on steroids"
 - Laptop/PDA hybrid
 - Write on screen, run full software
- More and more PC-like PDAs
- Expansion of wireless access for "anywhere, anytime" computing

WIRED news on Tablet PCs:
<http://www.wired.com/news/technology/0,1282,60623,00.html>

For more information...

- All machines and sites mentioned are included on handout
- Additional resources on handout
- MCR PDA working group back in full swing in early 2004
- Additional resources coming to MCR web site as redesign takes place

MCR Technology page:
<http://nnlm.gov/mcr/technology/>

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